

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith disclosing references cited in a corresponding PCT application No. PCT/US02/33671. Consideration is requested.

Claims 1-13 and 22-24 have been cancelled without prejudice, thereby mooted the rejections thereof under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112 and 103.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 19 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claim. This has been done and is presented as independent claim 14. The Examiner further requests that claim 19 be amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112. However, neither claim 19 nor its base claim 14 were rejected under Section 112. It is submitted that claim 14 as amended is definite and allowable.

Claims 15-18 and 20-21 depend from claim 14 and should be allowed for the same reason as claim 14 and by reason of the additional method steps and features recited in the respective dependent claims, in combination.

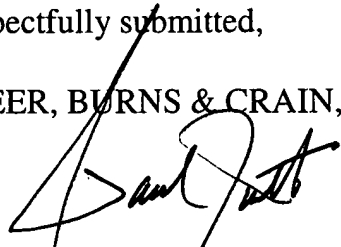
In the Office Action the Examiner indicates that claims 25-27 are allowed.

For the foregoing reasons it is submitted that claims 14-18, 20-21 and 25-27 are allowable. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Juettner', is written over the printed name and registration information.

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